



UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE

UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF COMMERCE
United States Patent and Trademark Office
Address: COMMISSIONER FOR PATENTS
P.O. Box 1450
Alexandria, Virginia 22313-1450
www.uspto.gov

APPLICATION NO.	FILING DATE	FIRST NAMED INVENTOR	ATTORNEY DOCKET NO.	CONFIRMATION NO.
10/790,418	03/01/2004	Paolo Veglio	9562	1478

27752 7590 12/08/2006

THE PROCTER & GAMBLE COMPANY
INTELLECTUAL PROPERTY DIVISION
WINTON HILL BUSINESS CENTER - BOX 161
6110 CENTER HILL AVENUE
CINCINNATI, OH 45224

EXAMINER

CRAIG, PAULA L

ART UNIT PAPER NUMBER

3761

DATE MAILED: 12/08/2006

Please find below and/or attached an Office communication concerning this application or proceeding.

Office Action Summary

Application No.

10/790,418

Applicant(s)

VEGLIO ET AL.

Examiner

Paula L. Craig

Art Unit

3761

-- The MAILING DATE of this communication appears on the cover sheet with the correspondence address --

Period for Reply

A SHORTENED STATUTORY PERIOD FOR REPLY IS SET TO EXPIRE 3 MONTH(S) OR THIRTY (30) DAYS, WHICHEVER IS LONGER, FROM THE MAILING DATE OF THIS COMMUNICATION.

- Extensions of time may be available under the provisions of 37 CFR 1.136(a). In no event, however, may a reply be timely filed after SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- If NO period for reply is specified above, the maximum statutory period will apply and will expire SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- Failure to reply within the set or extended period for reply will, by statute, cause the application to become ABANDONED (35 U.S.C. § 133). Any reply received by the Office later than three months after the mailing date of this communication, even if timely filed, may reduce any earned patent term adjustment. See 37 CFR 1.704(b).

Status

- 1) ☒ Responsive to communication(s) filed on 06 September 2006.
- 2a) ☐ This action is **FINAL**. 2b) ☒ This action is non-final.
- 3) ☐ Since this application is in condition for allowance except for formal matters, prosecution as to the merits is closed in accordance with the practice under *Ex parte Quayle*, 1935 C.D. 11, 453 O.G. 213.

Disposition of Claims

- 4) ☒ Claim(s) 1-20 is/are pending in the application.
- 4a) Of the above claim(s) _____ is/are withdrawn from consideration.
- 5) ☐ Claim(s) _____ is/are allowed.
- 6) ☒ Claim(s) 1-20 is/are rejected.
- 7) ☐ Claim(s) _____ is/are objected to.
- 8) ☐ Claim(s) _____ are subject to restriction and/or election requirement.

Application Papers

- 9) ☒ The specification is objected to by the Examiner.
- 10) ☒ The drawing(s) filed on 3/1/2004 is/are: a) ☐ accepted or b) ☒ objected to by the Examiner.
Applicant may not request that any objection to the drawing(s) be held in abeyance. See 37 CFR 1.85(a).
Replacement drawing sheet(s) including the correction is required if the drawing(s) is objected to. See 37 CFR 1.121(d).
- 11) ☐ The oath or declaration is objected to by the Examiner. Note the attached Office Action or form PTO-152.

Priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119

- 12) ☐ Acknowledgment is made of a claim for foreign priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119(a)-(d) or (f).
- a) ☐ All b) ☐ Some * c) ☐ None of:
- ☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received.
 - ☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received in Application No. _____.
 - ☐ Copies of the certified copies of the priority documents have been received in this National Stage application from the International Bureau (PCT Rule 17.2(a)).

* See the attached detailed Office action for a list of the certified copies not received.

Attachment(s)

- ☒ Notice of References Cited (PTO-892)
- ☒ Notice of Draftsperson's Patent Drawing Review (PTO-948)
- ☒ Information Disclosure Statement(s) (PTO/SB/08)
Paper No(s)/Mail Date 4/10/06.
- ☐ Interview Summary (PTO-413)
Paper No(s)/Mail Date. _____.
- ☐ Notice of Informal Patent Application
- ☐ Other: _____.

DETAILED ACTION

Response to Arguments

1. Applicant's arguments presented in the appeal brief filed September 6, 2006 with respect to Claims 1-20 have been considered but are moot in view of the new grounds of rejection. The finality of the action mailed January 17, 2006 is withdrawn.

Drawings

2. The drawings are objected to under 37 CFR 1.83(a). The drawings must show every feature of the invention specified in the claims. Therefore, the pressure-sensitive adhesive in Claim 1 must be shown or the feature canceled from the claim. No new matter should be entered. The drawings are also objected to because of the informalities listed on the enclosed Form PTO-948. Corrected drawing sheets in compliance with 37 CFR 1.121(d) are required in reply to the Office action to avoid abandonment of the application. Any amended replacement drawing sheet should include all of the figures appearing on the immediate prior version of the sheet, even if only one figure is being amended. The figure or figure number of an amended drawing should not be labeled as "amended." If a drawing figure is to be canceled, the appropriate figure must be removed from the replacement sheet, and where necessary, the remaining figures must be renumbered and appropriate changes made to the brief description of the several views of the drawings for consistency. Additional replacement sheets may be necessary to show the renumbering of the remaining figures. Each

Art Unit: 3761

drawing sheet submitted after the filing date of an application must be labeled in the top margin as either "Replacement Sheet" or "New Sheet" pursuant to 37 CFR 1.121(d). If the changes are not accepted by the examiner, the applicant will be notified and informed of any required corrective action in the next Office action. The objection to the drawings will not be held in abeyance.

Specification

3. The specification is objected to as failing to provide proper antecedent basis for the claimed subject matter. See 37 CFR 1.75(d)(1) and MPEP § 608.01(o). Correction of the following is required: In Claim 8, the specification does not provide antecedent basis for the fluid impermeable barrier being a polymer film layer. In Claim 20, the specification does not provide antecedent basis for the topsheet being fluid repellent, nor for the fluid impermeable barrier being a polyethylene film. The disclosure is also objected to because of the following informality: on page 2, line 7 of the specification, "4,681,587 issued to Anderson" should be "4,681,578 issued to Anderson". Appropriate correction is required.

Claim Objections

4. Claims 4, 15, 19 and 20 are objected to because of the following informalities: In Claim 4, "fluid impermeable layer" should be "fluid impermeable barrier". Claim 15 should be dependent on Claim 14, rather than on Claim 15. Claim 19 is a substantial duplicate of Claim 17. In Claim 20, line 13, "sanitary napkin" should be "pantiliner".

Also in Claim 20, line 13, "liquid impermeable" should be "fluid impermeable".

Appropriate correction is required.

Claim Rejections - 35 USC § 103

5. The text of those sections of Title 35, U.S. Code not included in this action can be found in a prior Office action.

6. Claims 1-4, 7-8, 10, 12-15, 17, and 19 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over U.S. Patent No. 4,681,578 to Anderson et al. in view of U.S. Patent No. 4,798,603 to Meyer et al.

7. For Claim 1, Anderson teaches a sanitary napkin having a body-facing side and a garment-facing side (Figs. 1-3, col. 1, lines 10-24, col. 2, lines 31-39, and col. 3, lines 30-33; note that Applicant's specification teaches that pantliners are sanitary napkins, page 3, lines 2-9). Anderson teaches the sanitary napkin including a fluid permeable topsheet, a fluid permeable backsheet, and an absorbent core disposed therebetween (topsheet is topsheet 26; backsheet is outer layer 22; absorbent core is core 20; Figs. 2-3, col. 3, line 44 to col. 4, line 8, col. 4, line 60 to col. 5, line 14; note that the backsheet is described as porous and permeable to liquid and vapor; in addition, U.S. Patent Nos. 4,341,217 and 4,342,314 are incorporated by reference in Anderson). Anderson teaches the absorbent core including hydrophilic material defining a core outer periphery (Figs. 2-3 and col. 3, lines 44-57; note that Applicant's specification indicates that creped cellulose wadding, cellulose fibers, and airfelt are all hydrophilic materials suitable for the absorbent core; see specification, page 3, lines 24-27). Anderson

Art Unit: 3761

teaches the topsheet and the backsheet including hydrophobic nonwoven material (col. 3, line 58 to col. 4, line 8, col. 4, line 60 to col. 5, line 13; note the preferred topsheet is a thermoplastic film; that topsheet materials are stated as being also suitable for the outer layer; and that U.S. Patent Nos. 4,242,314 and 4,324,246 are incorporated by reference in Anderson). Anderson teaches the topsheet and the backsheet defining a sanitary napkin outer periphery that is substantially larger than the core outer periphery, with the area between the core outer periphery and the sanitary napkin outer periphery being a breathable zone (both outer layer 22 and topsheet 26 are indicated as being porous and define an outer periphery substantially larger than the core outer periphery; note ventilation areas 18; Figs. 1-3, col. 3, line 58 to col. 4, line 68). Anderson teaches a fluid impermeable barrier between the backsheet and the absorbent core, the fluid impermeable barrier being disposed within the core outer periphery (barrier layer 24, Figs. 2-3, col. 4, lines 9-48, and Claim 1). Anderson teaches the garment-facing side having thereon pressure sensitive adhesive for affixing to a wearer's undergarment (adhesive fastening means 30, Figs. 2 and 3 and col. 5, lines 54-68).

8. Further for Claim 1, Anderson does not expressly teach the absorbent core being relatively hydrophilic with respect to the topsheet and the backsheet. However, having the absorbent core be relatively hydrophilic with respect to the topsheet and backsheet is well known in the art of absorbent articles. Meyer confirms this and teaches an absorbent article which may be a sanitary napkin, having a relatively hydrophobic topsheet and a relatively hydrophilic absorbent core (topsheet is topsheet 14, absorbent core is absorbent body 16, Figs. 2 and 4, col. 2, line 57 to col. 3, line 27, col. 4, lines 28-

Art Unit: 3761

32, col. 6, lines 3-5). Meyer teaches that a hydrophobic topsheet and hydrophilic absorbent core rapidly conduct liquid through the topsheet into the absorbent core, minimizing pooling of liquid against the wearer's skin, preventing flowback from the absorbent core into the topsheet, and allowing the natural capillary wicking forces to direct liquid into the absorbent core (col. 9, lines 17-28, col. 13, lines 12-16). Meyer also teaches a hydrophobic backsheet (backsheet 12, Figs. 2 and 4, col. 4, lines 12-28; note the backsheet is indicated as vapor permeable). Given that Anderson teaches hydrophilic materials as suitable for the absorbent core, and hydrophobic materials as suitable for the topsheet and backsheet, it would have been obvious to one of ordinary skill in the art at the time of the invention to modify Anderson so that the absorbent core is relatively hydrophilic with respect to the topsheet and backsheet, as taught by Meyer, to rapidly conduct liquid into the absorbent core and prevent flowback from the core, as taught by Meyer.

9. For Claim 2, Anderson teaches the backsheet having sufficient hydrophobicity as to be rendered fluid repellent (backsheet is outer layer 22, col. 3, line 58 to col. 4, line 8; note the patents incorporated by reference).

10. For Claim 3, Anderson teaches the topsheet and the backsheet having a common outer periphery (Figs. 1-3).

11. For Claim 4, Anderson teaches the periphery of the fluid impermeable barrier coinciding with the core outer periphery (fluid impermeable barrier is barrier layer 24, Figs. 2-3 and col. 4, lines 29-48).

12. For Claim 7, Anderson teaches the sanitary napkin periphery defining a generally hour-glass shape (Fig. 1).

13. For Claim 8, Anderson teaches the fluid impermeable barrier being a polymer film layer (fluid impermeable barrier is barrier layer 24, col. 4, lines 9-28).

14. For Claim 10, Anderson teaches the topsheet being a spunbonded nonwoven web (col. 5, lines 4-6; note Mullane '246 is incorporated by reference; see Mullane, col. 4, lines 34-36).

15. For Claim 12, Anderson teaches the backsheet including a spunbonded nonwoven web (col. 3, line 66 to col. 4, line 8, col. 5, lines 4-13; note Mullane '246 is incorporated by reference, and that topsheet materials are indicated as also suitable for the backsheet; see Mullane, col. 4, lines 34-36).

16. For Claim 13, Anderson teaches the backsheet including polypropylene fibers (col. 3, line 66 to col. 4, line 8, col. 5, lines 4-13, col. 6, lines 27-28).

17. For Claim 14, Anderson teaches the absorbent core being formed of any of the materials for absorbent cores well known to those of ordinary skill in the art (col. 3, lines 47-48). Anderson does not teach the absorbent core including superabsorbent material. However, sanitary napkins with absorbent cores including superabsorbent material are well known in the art. Meyer confirms this and teaches the absorbent core including superabsorbent material (absorbent body 16, col. 5, lines 22-68). Meyer teaches that superabsorbent material enhances the absorptive capacity of the absorbent core (col. 5, lines 22-28). It would have been obvious to one of ordinary skill in the art at the time of the invention to modify Anderson to include the absorbent core

Art Unit: 3761

having superabsorbent material, as taught by Meyer, to enhance the absorptive capacity of the absorbent core, as taught by Meyer.

18. For Claim 15, Anderson teaches the absorbent core being formed of any of the materials for absorbent cores well known to those of ordinary skill in the art (col. 3, lines 47-48). Anderson does not teach superabsorbent fibers. However, superabsorbent fibers in the absorbent core are well known in the art of absorbent articles. Meyer confirms this and teaches superabsorbent material including superabsorbent fibers (col. 5, lines 22-34; note that peat moss is fibrous). Meyer teaches that superabsorbent material enhances the absorptive capacity of the absorbent core (col. 5, lines 22-28). It would have been obvious to one of ordinary skill in the art to modify Anderson to include superabsorbent fibers, as taught by Meyer, to enhance the absorptive capacity of the absorbent core, as taught by Meyer.

19. For Claims 17 and 19, Anderson teaches the sanitary napkin being a pantiliner (col. 3, lines 19-28).

20. Claims 5, 9, and 11 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over Anderson et al. in view of Meyer and further in view of U.S. Patent Application No. 2003/0187417 to Kudo et al.

21. For Claim 5, Anderson/Meyer teach all the limitations of Claim 1, as described above in paragraphs 7-8. Anderson does not teach the topsheet and the core being joined by mechanical entangling of a portion of their respective fibers. However, joining a topsheet to a core by mechanically entangling of a portion of their respective fibers is

Art Unit: 3761

well known in the art of absorbent articles. Kudo confirms this and teaches a sanitary napkin in which a topsheet is joined to a core by mechanically entangling a portion of their respective fibers (topsheet is top layer 5, core is absorbent layer 4, Figs. 1-7, Abstract, Paragraphs 11-17, 44, 46, and 98, and Claim 1). Kudo teaches that this bonding increases wet strength of the absorbent core and results in body fluid being more easily absorbed by the absorbent layer (paragraph 17). It would have been obvious to one of ordinary skill in the art to modify Anderson to include joining the topsheet to the core by mechanically entangling a portion of their respective fibers, as taught by Kudo, to increase wet strength of the absorbent core and make body fluid more easily absorbed, as taught by Kudo.

22. For Claim 9, Anderson does not teach the topsheet and the absorbent core being embossed to expose and entangle fibers from the core with the topsheet. However, the topsheet and the absorbent core being embossed to expose and entangle fibers from the core with the topsheet is well known in the art of absorbent articles. Kudo confirms this and teaches the topsheet and the absorbent core being embossed to expose and entangle fibers from the core with the topsheet (Figs. 1-7, Abstract, Paragraphs 11-17). Kudo teaches that the embossing increases the wet strength of the absorbent layer and makes body fluid easily absorbed by the absorbent layer (Paragraph 17). It would have been obvious to one of ordinary skill in the art at the time of the invention to modify Anderson to include the topsheet and the absorbent core being embossed to expose and entangle fibers from the core with the topsheet, as taught by Kudo, to increase the

Art Unit: 3761

wet strength of the absorbent layer and make body fluid easily absorbed by the absorbent layer, as taught by Kudo.

23. For Claim 11, Anderson does not teach the topsheet including bicomponent fibers. However, bicomponent fibers are well known for use in topsheets for absorbent articles. Kudo confirms this and teaches a sanitary napkin having a bicomponent topsheet (top layer 5, paragraphs 63-64, 70, 84, 103, 112, 114-118). Kudo teaches that the topsheet using such fibers is resilient even under pressure from the body of a wearer (paragraph 70). It would have been obvious to one of ordinary skill in the art to modify Anderson to include the topsheet having bicomponent fibers, as taught by Kudo, to provide a topsheet which is resilient under pressure, as taught by Kudo.

24. Claims 6, 16, 18, and 20 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over Anderson et al. in view of Meyer and further in view of U.S. Patent No. 6,582,411 to Carstens et al.

25. For Claim 6, Anderson/Meyer teach all the limitations of Claim 1, as described above in paragraphs 7-8. Anderson does not teach the core outer periphery defining a generally oval shape. However, a core outer periphery having a generally oval shape is well known in the art of sanitary napkins. Carstens confirms this and teaches a sanitary napkin having an absorbent core with a generally oval shape (col. 11, lines 24-31). It would have been obvious to one of ordinary skill in the art to modify Anderson to have the core outer periphery having a generally oval shape, as taught by Carstens.

Art Unit: 3761

26. For Claim 16, Anderson teaches the core including an airlaid web (airfelt, col. 3, lines 44-54). Anderson teaches the absorbent core being formed of any of the materials for absorbent cores well known to those of ordinary skill in the art (col. 3, lines 47-48). Anderson does not teach the core including a carded airlaid web. However, absorbent cores including a carded airlaid web are well known in the art of absorbent articles. Carstens confirms this and teaches a sanitary napkin including a carded airlaid web in the core (col. 13, lines 20-25). Applicant's specification does not disclose that including a carded airlaid web in the core serves any stated purpose or solves any particular problem. It would have been obvious to one of ordinary skill in the art at the time of the invention to modify the airlaid web of Anderson for the airlaid web in the core to be a carded airlaid web, as taught by Carstens.

27. For Claim 18, Anderson teaches a sanitary napkin including a fluid permeable topsheet, a fluid permeable backsheet, and an absorbent core disposed therebetween as described above for Claim 1 in paragraph 7. Anderson teaches the absorbent core including hydrophilic airlaid nonwoven material and defining a core outer periphery (hydrophilic airlaid nonwoven material is airfelt, col. 3, lines 44-54; note that Applicant's specification teaches that airfelt is a hydrophilic material suitable for the absorbent core; see specification, page 3, lines 24-27). Anderson teaches the topsheet and the backsheet including hydrophobic spunbonded nonwoven material and defining a sanitary napkin outer periphery that is larger than the core outer periphery, the area between the core outer periphery and the sanitary napkin outer periphery being a breathable zone that completely surrounds the core outer periphery, such that vapors

Art Unit: 3761

can permeate completely through the sanitary napkin in the breathable zone, as described above for Claims 1, 10, and 12 in paragraphs 7, 14 and 15. Anderson teaches the sanitary napkin including a fluid impermeable barrier between the backsheet and the absorbent core, the fluid impermeable barrier being disposed adjacent to the absorbent core and within the core outer periphery, as described above for Claim 1 in paragraph 7.

28. Further for Claim 18, Anderson does not expressly teach the absorbent core being relatively hydrophilic with respect to the topsheet and the backsheet, nor the absorbent core including fibrous AGM (absorbent gelling material). However, having the absorbent core be relatively hydrophilic with respect to the topsheet and backsheet is well known in the art of absorbent articles. Having fibrous AGM in the absorbent core is also well known in the art of absorbent articles. Meyer confirms that a relatively hydrophilic core is well known, teaching an absorbent article which may be a sanitary napkin, having a relatively hydrophobic topsheet and a relatively hydrophilic absorbent core (topsheet is topsheet 14, absorbent core is absorbent body 16, Figs. 2 and 4, col. 2, line 57 to col. 3, line 27, col. 4, lines 28-32, col. 6, lines 3-5). Meyer teaches that a hydrophobic topsheet and hydrophilic absorbent core rapidly conduct liquid through the topsheet into the absorbent core, minimizing pooling of liquid against the wearer's skin, preventing flowback from the absorbent core into the topsheet, and allowing the natural capillary wicking forces to direct liquid into the absorbent core (col. 9, lines 17-28, col. 13, lines 12-16). Carstens confirms that fibrous AGM is well known and teaches a sanitary napkin including fibrous AGM in the absorbent core (col. 11, line 46 to col. 12,

Art Unit: 3761

line 20). Carstens teaches that fibrous AGM is preferred because of its greater capacity compared to other superabsorbents (col. 11, line 66 to col. 12, line 13). It would have been obvious to one of ordinary skill in the art at the time of the invention to modify Anderson so that the absorbent core is relatively hydrophilic with respect to the topsheet and backsheet, as taught by Meyer, to rapidly conduct liquid into the absorbent core and prevent flowback from the core, as taught by Meyer. It would also have been obvious to modify Anderson to include fibrous AGM in the absorbent core, as taught by Carstens, to provide greater capacity, as taught by Carstens.

29. For Claim 20, Anderson teaches a thin absorbent pantiliner including a fluid permeable topsheet, a fluid permeable backsheet, and an absorbent core disposed therebetween as described above for Claims 1 and 19 in paragraphs 7 and 19.

Anderson teaches the absorbent core including hydrophilic airlaid nonwoven material and defining a core outer periphery (hydrophilic airlaid nonwoven material is airfelt, Figs. 1-3, col. 3, lines 44-54; note that Applicant's specification teaches that airfelt is a hydrophilic material suitable for the absorbent core; see specification, page 3, lines 24-27). Anderson teaches the topsheet and the backsheet including hydrophobic fluid repellent spunbonded nonwoven material and defining a pantiliner outer periphery that is larger than the core outer periphery, the area between the core outer periphery and the pantiliner outer periphery being a breathable zone that completely surrounds the core outer periphery, such that vapors can permeate completely through the pantiliner in the breathable zone, as described above for Claims 1, 10, and 12 in paragraphs 7, 14 and 15. Anderson teaches the pantiliner including a fluid impermeable barrier between

Art Unit: 3761

the backsheet and the absorbent core, the fluid impermeable barrier being disposed adjacent to the absorbent core and within the core outer periphery, as described above for Claim 1 in paragraph 7. Anderson teaches the fluid impermeable barrier being a polyethylene film disposed adjacent to the core and within the core outer periphery (barrier layer 24, Figs. 2-3, col. 4, lines 9-28).

30. Further for Claim 20, Anderson does not expressly teach the absorbent core having a basis weight between about 50 gsm and 100 gsm, the absorbent core being relatively hydrophilic with respect to the topsheet and the backsheet, nor the absorbent core including at least about 5 wt% fibrous AGM (absorbent gelling material). However, having the absorbent core be relatively hydrophilic with respect to the topsheet and backsheet is well known in the art of absorbent articles. Having fibrous AGM in the absorbent core is also well known in the art of absorbent articles. Meyer confirms that a relatively hydrophilic core is well known, teaching an absorbent article which may be a sanitary napkin, having a relatively hydrophobic topsheet and a relatively hydrophilic absorbent core (topsheet is topsheet 14, absorbent core is absorbent body 16, Figs. 2 and 4, col. 2, line 57 to col. 3, line 27, col. 4, lines 28-32, col. 6, lines 3-5). Meyer teaches that a hydrophobic topsheet and hydrophilic absorbent core rapidly conduct liquid through the topsheet into the absorbent core, minimizing pooling of liquid against the wearer's skin, preventing flowback from the absorbent core into the topsheet, and allowing the natural capillary wicking forces to direct liquid into the absorbent core (col. 9, lines 17-28, col. 13, lines 12-16). Carstens confirms that fibrous AGM is well known and teaches a sanitary napkin including at least about 5 wt% fibrous AGM in the

Art Unit: 3761

absorbent core (col. 11, line 46 to col. 12, line 20, col. 12, line 53 to col. 13, line 26).

Carstens teaches that fibrous AGM is preferred because of its greater capacity compared to other superabsorbents (col. 11, line 66 to col. 12, line 13). Carstens also teaches the absorbent core having a basis weight of between about 50 gsm and 100 gsm (col. 11, line 66 to col. 12, line 20, col. 13, lines 3-25). Basis weight is a result effective variable, since it affects capacity, thinness, resilience, and comfort. The discovery of an optimum value of a result effective variable is ordinarily within the ordinary skill in the art. See *In re Boesch and Slaney*, 205 USPQ 215 (CCPA 1980).

It would have been obvious to one of ordinary skill in the art at the time of the invention to modify Anderson so that the absorbent core is relatively hydrophilic with respect to the topsheet and backsheet, as taught by Meyer, to rapidly conduct liquid into the absorbent core and prevent flowback from the core, as taught by Meyer. It would also have been obvious to modify Anderson to include at least about 5 wt% fibrous AGM in the absorbent core and to have the basis weight of the absorbent core between about 50 gsm and 100 gsm, as taught by Carstens, to provide suitable capacity, as taught by Carstens.

Conclusion

Any inquiry concerning this communication or earlier communications from the examiner should be directed to Paula L. Craig whose telephone number is (571) 272-5964. The examiner can normally be reached on 8:30AM-4:00PM M-F.

Art Unit: 3761

If attempts to reach the examiner by telephone are unsuccessful, the examiner's supervisor, Tanya Zalukaeva can be reached on (571) 272-1115. The fax phone number for the organization where this application or proceeding is assigned is 571-273-8300.

Information regarding the status of an application may be obtained from the Patent Application Information Retrieval (PAIR) system. Status information for published applications may be obtained from either Private PAIR or Public PAIR. Status information for unpublished applications is available through Private PAIR only. For more information about the PAIR system, see <http://pair-direct.uspto.gov>. Should you have questions on access to the Private PAIR system, contact the Electronic Business Center (EBC) at 866-217-9197 (toll-free). If you would like assistance from a USPTO Customer Service Representative or access to the automated information system, call 800-786-9199 (IN USA OR CANADA) or 571-272-1000.

Paula L Craig
Examiner
Art Unit 3761

PLC

TATYANA ZALUKAEVA
SUPERVISORY PRIMA
